

FISCAL NOTE
HB 1143 - SB 1551

April 4, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides that for any academic year in which a high school is placed on notice or probation, its requests for approval of teachers on waivers would have to be approved by the State Board of Education if they exceeded the statewide average of all such waivers and waiver extensions granted per high school during the previous academic year. Prohibits the State Board from approving waivers or extensions in excess of the statewide average of all such waivers.

Currently, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to grant waivers to schools that do not comply with State Board of Education rules and regulations if such waivers are requested by the local board of education. Also, if a local school district is unable to secure a qualified and licensed teacher for a particular school vacancy, then the commissioner may issue a temporary teaching permit on behalf of the State Board of Education to a person recommended by the director of the local school district.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - Not Significant
Decrease Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant

Assumes there is the potential for some impact to local governments in the event a school system is unable to find a licensed, certified teacher for every class and must combine classes which could cause them to violate the state's class size requirements, thereby losing state funds.

The provisions of the Federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation will cause Tennessee to eliminate teachers on waivers and permits statewide by 2005. This law took effect in January 2001 and many Title I schools are already complying with its provisions.

For information purposes:

- the state report card indicates there were 57,355 teachers in Tennessee in 2002. Of that number, 862 were teaching on waivers and 1,755 were teaching on permits.
- the 2002 Annual Statistical Report indicates there are 326 high schools in Tennessee.
- In 2001, 98 schools were put on notice of probation. Of those schools, 18 contained grades 9-12.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director